(b) if not, the percentage of the total freight carried by the Railways in the country during 1990-91; and

(c) the percentage thereof in the year 2000-2001 and the reasons for continuous decrease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The figures of the percentage of total freight carried by the railways in the country are not maintained. However, during 1990-1991 total originating freight loading on Indian Railways was 318.40 Million Tonnes which increased to 473.50 Million Tonnes in 2000-2001.

Bunglings in tenders for Railway Works in Malaysia and Indonesia

†4023. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Malaysia and Indonesia have signed agreements with the Ministry of Railways for improvement of their railway systems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways have not signed any agreements with Government of Malaysia and Indonesia in this regard. However, IRCON, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of Malaysia for double tracking of Railway line between Ipoh Padang Besar in Malaysia and with Govt. of Indonesia for design, development and construction of major infrastructure & Port development work in South Sumatera Province which includes construction of a new Railway line. The cost of these projects is expected to be US$ 1.5 billion and US$ 260 million respectively.

Theft of goods of Rail Passengers

4024. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loss on account of theft of goods, including luggage of passengers, is consistently increasing over Indian Railways, particularly in Southern, South-Central and South-Eastern Railways;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and Railway Zone-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to prevent this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following preventive measures are taken to prevent theft of goods:—

1. Escorting of trains carrying valuable consignment over vulnerable sections as far as possible.

2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/section.

3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the conditions and seals of wagons carrying consignments.

4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.

5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.

6. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.

7. Dog squads are deployed for patrolling vulnerable yards and areas.

8. Close co-ordination between RPF, GRP and Local Police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.